

Rhode Island State Planning Council
Draft Minutes of Thursday, March 7, 2013 Meeting
William E. Powers Building
Conference Room A
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

I. ATTENDANCE

1. Members Present

Mr. Richard Licht, Chair	Director, RI Department of Administration
Ms. Kelly Mahoney, Vice Chair	Policy Director, Office of the Governor
Mr. Kevin Flynn, Secretary	Associate Director, Division of Planning
Mr. Dan Beardsley	RI League of Cities and Towns, Executive Director
Ms. Janet Coit	RI Department of Environmental Management, Director
Ms. Diane Feather	Representing Ms. Jean Boyle, RI LOCAT
Mr. Ruben Flores-Marzan	Providence Department of Planning & Development
Mr. Thomas Mullaney	RI Department of Administration, Budget Office
Mr. Bob Shawver	Representing Mr. Michael Lewis, Director, RIDOT
Mr. John Trevor	Environmental Advocate
Dr. Bob Vanderslice	Representing Dr. Michael Fine, Director RI Department of Health
Mr. Michael Walker	Representing Mr. Bill Parsons, RI Economic Development Corporation
Ms. Janet White-Raymond	Public Member
Mr. Scott Wolf	Environmental Advocate

2. Members Absent

Mr. Stephen Cardi	Cardi Corporation
Ms. Jeanne Cola	Chair, RI Housing Resources Commission
Ms. Sharon Conard-Wells	West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation
Mr. L. Vincent Murray	RI LOCAT, Government Official Representative
Ms. Anna Prager	Public Member
Mr. William Sequino	Public Member
Mr. Sam Shamoon	Governor's Designee

3. Guests

Mr. Daniel Berman	Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Michael Hogan	RI House Policy Office

Ms. Sarah Kite
Mr. Dan Lanier
Ms. Karyn Lowe
Mr. Mike McGonagle
Mr. Scott Millar
Mr. Mike O'Connell
Ms. Barbara Sokoloff

RI Resource Recovery Corporation
RI Society of Environmental Professionals
RI State Senate
RI Resource Recovery Corporation
RI Department of Environmental Management
RI Resource Recovery Corporation
Barbara Sokoloff Associates

4. Staff – Division of Planning

Ms. Melanie Army
Mr. Kenneth Burke
Mr. Jeff Davis
Ms. Nancy Hess
Mr. Kevin Nelson
Ms. Amanda Martin
Mr. Jared Rhodes
Ms. Dawn Vittorioso

Supervising Planner, Statewide Planning Program
General Manager, Water Resources Board
Principal Planner, Statewide Planning Program
Supervising Planner, Statewide Planning Program
Supervising Planner, Statewide Planning Program
Principal Planner, Statewide Planning Program
Chief, Statewide Planning Program
Executive Assistant, Division of Planning

II. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Chairman Licht called the meeting to order on March 7, 2013 at 9:03 a.m.

2. Approval of the February 7, 2013 Meeting Minutes – *for vote*

Mr. Licht asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 7, 2013. Mr. Trevor moved to approve the minutes of February 7, 2013 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. White-Raymond. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

There were none.

4. CEDS Certification Request, Amos House Training & Support Center – *for vote*

Mr. Licht introduced Mr. Kevin Nelson who presented this item as summarized in the associated agenda supplement. Mr. Nelson then advised the Council that the Technical Committee had recommended approval and that staff had received a letter in support of the application signed by the City of Providence's Mayor, Mr. Angel Tavares, alleviating the concern over eligibility as initially discussed in the agenda supplement. Having concluded the formal presentation, the Council engaged in the following discussion:

Mr. Vanderslice commented that the proposal addresses a need for work force training. He then noted that this may be a means for getting Rhode Island's Housing and Energy Groups working together.

There being no further questions or comments, Mr. Licht asked for a motion to certify the Amos House Training & Support Center proposal. Mr. Vanderslice moved to approve. The motion was seconded by Ms. Janet White-Raymond and approved unanimously.

Mr. Licht then took a moment to advise the Council that the administration was introducing legislation to add the Energy Office, RI Housing and RIPTA to the membership of the State Planning Council.

5. Rhode Island Solid Waste Management Plan Update – *for discussion*

Next, Mr. Licht introduced RI Resource Recovery's (RIRRC) Executive Director, Mr. Mike O'Connell and Ms. Sarah Kite, who delivered the presentation included as attachment 1. Instances where the Council engaged in discussion are summarized as follows:

Mr. Licht pointed out that RI currently has a ban on waste incineration. He then questioned if the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) is experiencing increased volumes as a result of the single stream conversion. Mr. O'Connell responded and estimated that the increase so far has been about eight percent and then indicated that the projection is that RIRRC should eventually see a twenty percent increase.

Mr. Licht indicated that there is a statute that prohibits RIRRC from taking out of state waste.

Ms. Kite discussed educating the public about waste and noted that the public needs to think about waste disposal as a service that is not free; the more people generate trash, the more money it costs. Ms. Coit asked if each of the "opportunities" discussed in the presentation would require Legislative changes to pursue. In response, Ms. Kite summarized which ones would and wouldn't.

Mr. Licht asked Ms. Kite to explain the revenues produced by the sale of recycled commodities. Ms. Kite explained that RIRRC has an annual contract with municipalities where profits are shared. Last year RIRRC had a profit and disbursed \$2.1M back to the municipalities; all of which is market driven. She noted that the contract specifies and requires municipalities to use the profits towards the recycling program to purchase new recycling trucks, containers, hire recycling staff and provide education to residents and schools.

Ms. Coit questioned if other recycling opportunities are available. In response, Ms. Kite said that RIRRC consistently works with their service provider to evaluate the markets for recyclable commodities. Next, Ms. Coit asked if this included regional assessments. Ms. Kite indicated that it does.

Mr. Berman asked if recycling could be used to file for carbon credits. Mr. O'Connell noted that this was a very good question and said that he would follow up on it.

Mr. Vanderslice asked which types of materials require the producers to be responsible for their disposal. Ms. Kite indicated that these include electronic e-waste, paint and mercury. Mr. Vanderslice next asked if

RIRRC will require recycling at construction sites for new homes in the future. Ms. Kite stated that it is a requirement and commercial recycling has been the law since 1986. However, commercial recycling is a challenge because there are fees associated. Mr. Licht questioned if there is a way to enforce requirements for commercial recycling. Ms. Kite said that there is a disconnect with the employees that are responsible for rubbish removal. Ms. Coit said this is an area of opportunity where providing incentives to corporations would benefit the state in the long run. Mr. Licht suggested providing companies with a profit share for recycling. Ms. Kite indicated that this approach is currently available; however, no local trash haulers have elected to participate.

Mr. Beardsley asked if schools are required to recycle. Ms. Kite said that they are.

Mr. Trevor stated the biggest challenge is working with municipalities to increase recycling rates and asked if the presentation could be emailed to the Council members. Mr. Rhodes indicated that it would be sent out at the end of the meeting.

Having concluded this item, Mr. Licht announced that he had to depart and turned the leadership of the meeting to Vice Chair, Ms. Mahoney.

6. Rhode Island Equity Profile – *for discussion*

Next, Ms. Mahoney introduced Mr. Flynn who provided some background on how the next two items relate to the larger Sustainable Communities Initiatives. He then introduced Ms. Martin who delivered the attached presentation on the RI Social Equity profile (see attachment 2). Instances where the Council engaged in discussion are summarized as follows:

Mr. Wolf questioned whether age disparity could play a role in the economic vitality statistics. Ms. Martin responded by noting that age disparity could, in fact, play a role; however, it was not specifically analyzed in Policy Link's work.

Mr. Walker asked if the advanced education opportunities for entry-level technical jobs in life sciences were essentially certificate programs. Ms. Martin indicated that they were.

Ms. White-Raymond commented on the diversity inclusion project being funded by RI Foundation and noted that the work will fit nicely with their efforts.

Ms. Feather asked if literacy was a component of the analysis. Ms. Martin indicated that policy link did not look at that in particular but pointed out that the Sustainable Communities Project could provide an opportunity how literacy plays a role in social equity strategy.

Mr. Wolf took a moment to mention that Ms. Lisa Ranglin, President of RI Black Business Association, has convened a group to examine urban economic development strategies. He then asked if Rhode Island's Latino population is so economically stressed due to the number of relatively new immigrants to the Country. In response, Ms. Martin explained that this could play a part as reflected in the different numbers put forward for United States and foreign born Latinos.

Mr. Berman asked if the statistics are available based on the percentage and types of jobs that are unionized. Ms. Martin said that the data mainly consists of the channels used to acquire jobs.

Mr. Shawver perceived a gap between the jobs that are readily available and the current skill levels. Ms. Martin agreed that the focus must be on education for economic development.

Mr. Vanderslice pointed out that diversity is a concern, as reflected in the composition of the Council itself. He then suggested engaging diverse communities to participate. Ms. Mahoney noted that the Sustainable Communities group will focus on those types of issues.

There being no further questions, Ms. Mahoney thanked Ms. Martin for her presentation and announced that she had to depart and turned the leadership of the meeting to Secretary, Mr. Flynn.

7. Rhode Island Economic Data Analysis and Assessment – *for discussion*

Mr. Flynn introduced Mr. Jeff Davis who delivered an informational PowerPoint presentation on the State's Economic Data Analysis and Assessment (see attachment 3). Instances where the Council engaged in discussion are summarized as follows:

Mr. Davis explained that in terms of attracting professionals, RI ranks third when compared to neighboring states in terms of migration of native US knowledge workers. Mr. Flynn added that Massachusetts and Vermont ranked above RI. Ms. Coit suggested editing the information to state the rankings were based on knowledge workers. Mr. Davis thanked Ms. Coit for her suggestion and made a notation. Mr. Wolf agreed and noted that this point is incredibly important and should be emphasized as the common belief is that RI's educated are leaving the state.

Mr. Walker pointed out that little changes can have significant impacts. He noted that if the corporate tax rating was decreased by two percent, it would make a difference on RI's national ranking.

There being no further questions or comments, Mr. Flynn thanked Mr. Davis for his presentation and moved to the next agenda item.

8. Associate Director's Report

Mr. Flynn disposed this item given the hour, but did take a moment to announce that he expected a recommendation for a Sustainable Communities Consultant to be announced within two weeks.

9. Other Business

There was none.

10. Adjourn

There being no further discussion Council member Shawver motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council member Mullaney and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Flynn", written in a cursive style.

Kevin Flynn
Secretary